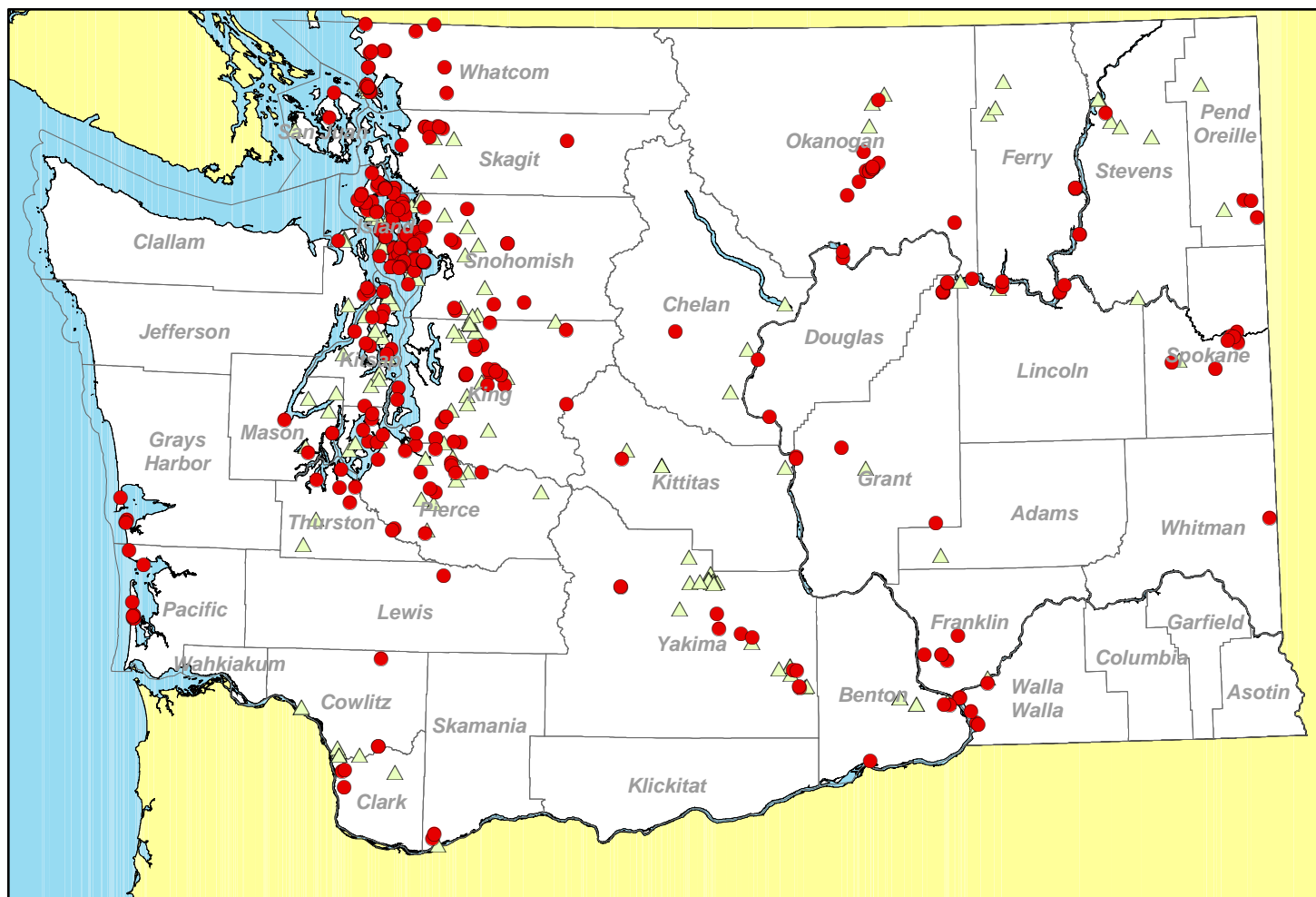


Arsenic Detections in Washington Public Water Supplies

Sources At or Above Arsenic Drinking Water Standard of 10 ppb



Overview

This map shows Washington Group A & B public water sources that have detected arsenic in their drinking water at or above the recently adopted drinking water Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) standard for arsenic.

EPA recently announced a new rule that protects public health by strengthening the drinking water standard for arsenic, changing the federal drinking standard from 50 parts per billion (ppb) to 10 ppb. The new, more stringent standard addresses long-term health effects of exposure to low levels of arsenic in drinking water, including cancers and cardiovascular diseases.

The Department of Health supports this important public health protection measure, and will work with water utilities and other stakeholders in our state during the next few years to ensure drinking water delivered by the public water supplies meets this new standard.

In Washington, the new standard may require as many as 240 Group A public water systems to take action addressing arsenic in their sources of drinking water.

This new rule culminates years of debate about protecting the public's health from arsenic in drinking water. It is expected to be among the most costly of new EPA rules to implement, requiring substantial investment by communities with arsenic problems as well as regulatory oversight by the state Department of Health.

Data Criteria

Values illustrated exceed 10 PPB and were selected from samples taken between January 1st, 1993 and April 1st, 2003. Emergency and inactive sources are excluded.

● Group A Systems – Water Systems that meet the federal definition of a public water system: those that regularly serve 15 or more residential connections or 25 or more persons, 60 or more days per year. WAC 246-290-020

▲ Group B Systems – Water systems usually serving 2-14 connections and less than 25 persons or more than 25 but for fewer than 60 days per year. WAC 246-291-010. Group B systems are not subject to the revised MCL for arsenic.

Disclaimer

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